

# DELAWARE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BOARD

The Townsend Building  
401 Federal Street, Suite 2  
Dover, Delaware 19901

## Meeting Minutes

The Department of Education  
The Cabinet Room

May 3, 2012  
5:15 P.M.

**Members Present:** Michael Casson, Samtra Devard, Stephanie DeWitt, Karen Gordon, Cristy Greaves, Chris Kenton, David Kohan, Jill Lewandowski, Wendy Murray, and Jacqueline Wisnauskas.

**Members Absent:** Joanne Christian, Marilyn Dollard, Whitney Price, Shelley Rouser, and Kathleen Thomas.

**Others Present:** Charlie Michels; PSB Executive Director, Paula Fontello; Deputy Attorney General, Mary Ellen Kotz-McGraw; Education Associate of Induction Programs and Evaluation, Michelle Kriss; Secretary to PSB, Debbie Doordan; Innovative Schools, Executive Director, Deb Stevens; DSEA.

### I. Opening

**Call to Order:** Dr. Greaves, Professional Standards Vice Board Chair, called the meeting to Order at 5:29 p.m.

**Approval of Agenda:** A motion was made by Ms. Lewandowski and seconded by Ms. Wisnauskas to approve the May 3, 2012 Agenda. The motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes of April 3, 2012:** A motion was made by Ms. Gordon and seconded by Ms. Devard to approve the PSB Minutes of April 3, 2012. Due to his April 3<sup>rd</sup> PSB meeting absence, Mr. Kenton abstained. The motion did not carry.

### II. Public Comment

None.

### III. Executive Director's Report

- Mr. Michels attended Educational Testing Services' (ETS) Annual Client Conference in Princeton, New Jersey from April 30 to May 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Conference was centered on the Praxis Series. ETS is anticipating some changes such as complete electronic registration, more current technology within the tests, more computer-based tests, and common prices for both paper and pencil, and computer-based tests. Mr. Michels crafted a page of updates that was forwarded

to PSB members, the DOE, the 4 DE Teacher preparation programs and district and charter school Personnel Directors.

- Mr. Michels had a recent conversation the Delaware Science Coalition Co-Chairs in reference to the Secondary Science Certificate (1543). He reminded the Co-Chairs and the DOE Science Education Associates present that the current regulation stipulates that if an educator is teaching a secondary science area such as chemistry or biology, that the educator must hold a Standard Certificate in that specific secondary science curricular area or have the LEA apply for an Emergency Certificate. Secondary Science Certificates are required for each of the following areas: Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, Integrated Science, Physical Science, and Physics. Passing the Praxis II in the specific area (Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, Integrated Science, Physical Science, and Physics) is required to add that specific Standard Certificate to a License. Mr. Michels said a concern conveyed by the Science Coalition during the subsequent Committee meeting is the area of Integrated Science and some flexibility in certification. Mr. Michels made it clear to the Committee that in order for a teacher to become certified in Integrated Science they need to either 1.) Pass the Praxis II test 0435 General Science: Content Knowledge, or 2.) Have a full and valid certification in Integrated Science from another State. Mr. Michels met with Dr. Barton later on this topic to ensure the Department is implementing the regulation with fidelity. Mr. Michels recommends that the PSB amend regulation **1543 Secondary Science Teacher** for complete clarification and to address the concerns raised.
- Mr. Michels updated the Board on an outstanding hearing request. The matter has been resolved. A stipulation of dismissal has been received. Ms. Fontello noted that a stipulation of dismissal removes the matter from the PSB's jurisdiction and that no further action is required.
- Mr. Michels has contacted the Director of Delaware Boards of Commissions, relative to Professional Standards Board members' terms and reconfirmations. Mr. Michels indicated that the Senate has changed the process of nominations for confirmation. It was discussed that the changes may be problematic if the confirmations can not be completed in June as most PSB members' terms end on the last day or two of June. Mr. Michels noted that based on the information provided that the Members who had requested to maintain their membership on the PSB may not be reconfirmed until January. Notwithstanding this recent turn of events, the language in 14 Del C. §1206(b) allows individuals to remain on the PSB until replaced. Mr. Michels will provide the PSB with more information at the June 7 PSB meeting.
- Mr. Michels has been working with the Delaware School Nurses Association (DSNA). He said the PSB is aware of their concern of taking and passing the Praxis I before licensure, which is what HB107 would be requiring. Mr. Michels has had numerous conversations with DSNA members and their current President. As of two weeks ago, the Association had decided not oppose the Bill as released from the House of Representatives Education Committee last late spring. Mr. Michels will work with the Bill's sponsor, Representative Schooley.

#### IV. **DOE Report**

Dr. Greaves introduced Dr. Mary Ellen McGraw, Education Associate of Induction Programs and Evaluation for DDOE's Teacher and Administrator Quality Development Work Group, which is part of the College & Workforce Readiness Branch. Dr. McGraw commended the PSB and thanked Delaware educators in taking responsibility to mentor new educators in the First State. Handouts were distributed to the PSB, who were then given a brief overview regarding the DE Teacher Mentoring Program. Dr. McGraw noted that there are a total of 175 trained teacher Lead Mentors who serve the districts and charter schools. She said Lead Mentors continue to be responsible for training building Mentors in the Framework for Teaching and the details and logistics of the 3 year DE Mentoring Program. Many Lead Mentors also mentor novice teachers. Dr. McGraw expressed her concerns over the operational budget having been cut from \$800,000 to \$300,000 several years ago and noted that previous to the cut, each site was granted a per new teacher sum to facilitate the Mentoring Program. She said the Mentor and Lead Mentor stipend amounts have not been reviewed and increased for over 10 years. With teacher leadership roles coming to the forefront in education reforms, Dr. McGraw suggested that it might be time to consider increasing the salary supplements. She hopes that the PSB will revisit this in the near future. She noted that Delaware is the only state in the United States that provides mentoring to specialists and that speaks highly to Delaware's commitment to new educators. Dr. McGraw will be retiring June 30, 2012, and her sincere hope is for the PSB to continue to manage its control over the DE Mentoring Program.

#### V. **Action Items**

##### **A. Praxis II test/0301/5301 Reading Specialist**

Mr. Michels said the current Praxis II Reading Specialist test 0300 that DE uses for certification is being retired by ETS and that new Praxis II test 0301/5301 is being implemented in the fall of 2012. The new test 0301 (paper and pencil) or 5301 (computer based) is before the Board for Approval. Mr. Michels referred the Board to the ETS Multistate Standards Setting Study and both tests' Test at a Glance (TAAG), as provided by ETS and previously sent to members for comparison. He noted that DE currently requires Praxis II 0300 test for the Reading Specialist Standard Certificate, so if that test retires, the PSB would need to approve the next iteration of the test in order for educators to show content knowledge competence as a Reading Specialist. The standing test (0300) has 120 multiple choice questions; the new test (0301) has 80 multiple choice questions and two constructed responses. Mr. Michels received previous feedback from DE educators who indicated they are glad ETS has moved forward with the newer test that encompasses some of the newer standards in the area of Reading. Mr. Michels recommended Praxis II test 0301/5301 with a cut score of 164 effective September 1, 2012 to be approved. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Kohan and seconded by Ms. Lewandowski to approve ***Praxis II test 0301/5301 Reading Specialist*** with the recommended cut score of 164 and an effective date of September 1, 2012. The motion carried. Mr. Michels noted this will now go before the State Board of Education for approval.

**B. 1570 Early Childhood Special Education Teacher**

Mr. Michels said this regulation has been reviewed by the PSB numerous times and is finally before the Board for Publication. He said the term “Exceptional Children” has been added in the title so that it matches the title in Standard Certificate **1571 *Exceptional Children Special Education Teacher***. Members of the PSB’s Licensure and Certification Criteria Committee reviewed the draft and received responses that included suggestions of keeping the course count, but eliminating some of the unnecessary language. This regulation has been reformatted by referencing regulation **1505 *Standard Certificate*** and eliminating redundant language. Ms. Fontello suggested one change to the wording in 1.1, although the intent would remain the same. After minimal discussion, Mr. Michels asked the Board to consider a motion to publish with changes as suggested within Section 1.1. A motion was made by Ms. DeWitt and seconded by Mr. Kenton to publish **1570 *Early Childhood Special Education Teacher*** with changes in Section 1.1 as suggested. The motion carried.

**VII. Discussion**

**A. Delaware Leadership Project: Next Cohort(s) Approval Process**

Mr. Michels said the PSB approved a pilot program of a two cohort model by Innovative Schools on March 3, 2011 to provide a program now known as the Delaware Leadership Project. Mr. Michels advised that although the two cohorts have not been completed, a request is anticipated to be made for the PSB to extend the pilot program for a 3<sup>rd</sup> cohort. Innovative Schools would like to begin advertising for a 3<sup>rd</sup> cohort in the fall. It was noted that the PSB and the Department should be considering what information would be requested for review of the current program and the process that Innovative Schools would need to follow for consideration to extend the pilot program for a 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Cohort. He referred the PSB to the handout in their folder suggesting possible areas of review. Mr. Michels asked the Board to begin conversations with peers regarding consideration of extending the Delaware Leadership Project (Innovative Schools) Pilot program. He noted that if proposed new Standard Certificate **1595 *Certification Programs for Leaders in Education*** was approved, Innovative Schools and others pursuing this type of program approval would be held to the requirements and processes within the regulation. Mr. Michels has been working on this with Mr. Christopher Ruszkowski, the Chief Officer of the Teacher and Leader Effectiveness Unit. The Board expressed some concerns about extending the Pilot. Mr. Michels promised do some more work and revisit this with the Board in the near future.

**B. 1597 Delaware Professional Teaching Standards**

Mr. Michels had just received the May 1, 2012 Delaware Register of Regulations in which regulation 1597 was published. He will review the published version to ensure it was published as approved by both Boards. The PSB shared no further comments or concerns. Mr. Michels had received no written comments to date, but would share any comments received at next month’s PSB meeting where the regulation will be before the Board for Final Approval.

**C. 1573 Teacher of Students with Autism or Severe Disabilities**

Mr. Michels shared with the PSB that he has worked with a variety of people throughout the state and visited the Caesar Rodney Program, but he is still seeking answers to questions regarding for whom this regulation is targeting, or which individuals should have this certification working with these special needs students. Questions remain regarding ‘Approved Programs’ in the DE under which educators should hold this Standard Certificate. More research and inquiry is necessary. After some comments, discussion and looking at Federal, DE and DOE exceptional children special education regulations, the term Severe Disabilities’ provenance was questioned. A suggestion was to amend the regulation’s title to ***Teacher of Students with Autism or Severe Intellectual Disabilities***. The term ‘Severe Intellectual Disabilities’ is clearly defined within standing Delaware regulations. Mr. Michels said he would continue his work in this critical area.

**D. Administrator Regulations: 1591, 1592, 1593, 1594, and 1595**

Mr. Michels discussed the set of 5 Administrator certification regulations, as presented. He compared current/standing language versus proposed language for the following Delaware Administrative Standard Certificates: 1591, 1592, 1593, and 1594. He then illustrated the connections from the 4 current administrative regulations to new regulation ***1595 Certification Programs for Leaders in Education***. He asked the Board to consider whether or not the educational and experience requirements seem appropriate and evolve in rigor, if a course count should be required for 1591, and the proverbial question of PSB and DOE input regarding new program approvals. After some discussion, Mr. Michels asked the Board to continue to give these a critical review, as these will be placed on the Agenda at a future PSB meeting.

**VIII. PSB Standing Committees**

**A. Licensure and Certification Criteria**

Mr. Michels contacted the Licensure and Certification Criteria Committee for reactions to the Early Childhood Special Education Regulation.

**B. Professional Development and Associated Compensation**

The Committee had not met.

**IX. Other**

None.

**X. Public Comment**

None.

**XI. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Ms. Lewandowski and was seconded by Ms. Gordon to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.